THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

"*Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints: he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked*" (PSALM 97: 10).

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A CONVENTION OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS.

RESPONDING to an invitation from Elder Hyrum M. Smith, of the Council of the Twelve, and president of the European mission, the elders presiding over the conferences in the British mission convened at Durham House, Liverpool, for a conference on missionary work in their respective fields, and for social intercourse. Four sessions were held, including a testimony meeting. All the conferences were represented. The first session was held on Thursday, August 24th, and the last on the following Saturday. President Hyrum M. Smith presided at all the gatherings. President George F. Richards, of the Council of the Twelve, who had been appointed to succeed President Smith in the presidency of the European mission, arrived on Friday, August the 25th, and attended all the meetings except the opening session on the 24th. To the elders and others who attended these gatherings it was a time of great rejoicing, such as is experienced only when the Holy Spirit is poured out in Pentecostal fulness and power. The reports given were encouraging and strengthening. The testimonies borne were inspiring, and the counsels offered were such as, if followed, will be for the spiritual benefit of the entire mission. The testimony meeting was especially blessed with an outpouring of the Spirit. If no flames of fire were visible to the outward eye on that occasion; if no foreign tongues were heard, and no rushing wind, yet the spirit of testimony and prophecy was manifested so powerfully that every heart was moved, and the speakers sometimes found it difficult to give utterance to their thoughts. Reference was frequently made to the fact that President Smith and his family were about to depart for their home. The elders expressed their gratitude for having had the privilege of associating

with them; for the work done by President and Sister Smith, and for every good counsel received. They regretted that the time for parting had come; but they wished that the blessings of God might follow them, and they desired to give to President Richards the same confidence, support, and love they had given to President Smith.

Thursday, August 24th.

The first session of the convention commenced on August 24th, 1916, at 2 p.m.

After singing and prayer, President Smith extended to the elders a hearty welcome, and stated the object of the gathering. He desired to meet once more, before leaving for home, with the elders presiding in the various conferences of the mission, and take up with them some phases of missionary work. He had learned to esteem the brethren, although his acquaintance with them had been brief. "I feel," he said, "that you are my friends, my support, and, next to God, my heavenly Father, my 'help in the time of need.'"

The speaker said he had labored in the mission about three years, and the last two under difficulties, on account of the war. This had disarranged the work materially. From some parts of the field all the elders had gone, and in other parts only enough were left to keep the missionary work from ceasing entirely. In the British mission the elders had been gradually reduced from over three hundred to only fifty. According to the records, after a recent revision by which many names were stricken out, because the owners could not be found, there are about eight thousand members in the British mission. We have, as stated, only fifty elders to look after all these members. Many of the local brethren are at the front, or in training camps, and no one can tell when they will return, or how; but the speaker expressed the hope that they will come home full of faith. The aged brethren and the young boys are at home, but they cannot be expected to do much actual work for the Church. Some of the stronger brethren are engaged by the government on munition work, and these should be used, so that no branch, if possible, will have to be broken up because of lack of somebody to take charge of it. Unfortunately, some branches have already been discontinued, and we do not know when they will be re-established. "But," the speaker said. "I am not going to give way to pessimism. God declared, through the Prophet Joseph, that there are many honest souls in all nations, creeds, and parties. This is still true. There are many such in Great Britain who have not yet been gathered out, and I hope the missionary work will continue. I hope the war will open the eyes of the people to the fact that they have been deceived by priestcraft. Some are already beginning to see this. They are breaking the bonds of superstition, and when they go in search for

truth themselves, they will investigate 'Mormonism' and find that the gospel is the truth they are looking for."

President Smith then called attention to a rule of the mission adopted by a convention of missionaries during the time of President Rudger Clawson, according to which forty hours of tracting every month were to be considered the standard. "Lately we have fallen short of this average. We cannot keep up the tracting while most of the time is required for labor among the saints. Hence the question might be considered again, How much time should be given to tracting? When visiting the saints, you should spend the time instructing them. Many questions regarding the children, for instance, are constantly being asked. The elders should be prepared to answer them, and urge the saints to teach the children to become Latter-day Saints."

The speaker then referred to lukewarm members. "Those who have lost the love of the gospel, are neglecting their duties, and, perhaps, have joined other churches, as I believe a few have done, should be given to understand that they are expected to attend to their duties as Church members, if they desire to have their names enrolled among the saints. If they refuse, they should be dealt with. Action should also be taken against those guilty of wrongdoing. If they will not repent, they should be cut off. We cannot have that class of members."

Speaking of Temple work, President Smith reminded the elders of the notice published not long ago, according to which one of the duties of the elders is to search out the genealogies of faithful members who have passed away, and send the particulars to the headquarters at Liverpool, whence they would be forwarded to the Temple at St. George, in order that Temple work may be performed for such members. Arrangements had also been made for the performance of Temple work in behalf of the departed relatives of living members. Sealings and marriage ceremonies are, however, not performed for those who are living.

President Smith referred to his release from his position as president of the mission. The time had come, he said, for him to return home, but President George F. Richards would take his place, and the work would go on as usual. Some of the elders, he said, had done exceedingly well, putting into practice new ideas, and he would like to hear reports of how they had succeeded. He would also like to hear a word from the elders who have been laboring in the danger zones. He was thankful for the protecting care of God that had been over the elders and saints so far. We cannot, he said, abandon the saints in those areas, but he believed in exercising all the care possible. He would also like the elders to report their failures, if they had had any. An opportunity would, further, be given to ask and answer questions. The President closed by expressing his full confidence in the elders, and asked God's blessings upon them and their labors.

Elder Parley M. Condie, president of the Liverpool conference, reported that there were four traveling elders in his conference, and that two branches had been closed because of the lack of elders and local brethren to look after them. He said they had regular Teachers' visits, during which the families were called together for the purpose of being instructed in the gospel. Local brethren were engaged in this work. There had been contention among some of the saints, but harmony was being restored. They had some lukewarm members, and it is difficult to wake them up to a realization of the importance of performing their duties. Some are not keeping the Word of Wisdom. President Condie said that some good work had been done by the elders going with the saints on rambles, where they can talk with them, for personal, individual talks count most. Some members had been cut off, and there were others who should not have their names on the books. The work was progressing. There were some investigators, but the elders would not hasten them to make a decision; it would be better to give them time to study the gospel, until they understood it, before baptism.

President Smith suggested that reference be made in the reports to the manner in which the saints keep the Sabbath; also to the *Millennial Star*.

Elder Israel C. Barlow, President of the Manchester conference, said he had endeavored to call the attention of the people to their duty of keeping the Sabbath day holy. Many are not observing the day as it ought to be observed. Some are not observing the Word of Wisdom, and some are members in name only. The meetings, as a rule, are well attended, and no branch has been closed. Local brethren are taking up the labor assigned to them with willingness and ability. The *Star* is read with a great deal of interest and profit, and those who read it are delighted with it. There are a few who prefer other Church magazines, but they are not many. The sisters of the Relief Society are devoting time to visiting the saints and others, and the local brethren are doing a good work in this direction, too. Many of the saints, however, cannot be reached very often, because they live far away from the centers of population. The elders are united, and they feel that their labors for the salvation of their fellowmen are not in vain.

Elder John Holmes, of the Sheffield conference, said he realized his weakness, and also the responsibility resting upon him in the position he occupied; but it was a glorious work. Through the preaching of the gospel the world is being changed, and this is the greatest of miracles. "The more I labor in the ministry," the speaker said, "the more I see of the beauty of the gospel, and the more my gratitude increases for the privilege of being a member

of the Church, and having a testimony of the truth." He knew that it was only by humility that success could be achieved.

Elder Holmes said the conference was in a good condition. There had been elders who had not always been wise, but this criticism did not apply at present. They had not appointed local brethren to preside anywhere, but branches which have no presidents are visited by the elders, who are accompanied by local brethren from Sheffield. They are holding cottage meetings when convenient. In Sheffield local brethren are used as Teachers, and are doing splendid work, visiting and teaching. They have a Mutual Improvement Association, which has proved a great success; also two Sunday schools, presided over by local brethren. One feature of this work is a class of deaf-and-dumb members, who are being taught by a superintendent, also a deaf-mute, who takes a great interest in this work. The speaker said he felt well when tracting, and knew that much good was being done by means of that work. The saints generally keep the Word of Wisdom, though some drink tea and some, perhaps, use tobacco and liquor. This is by no means general; most of the saints are faithful, though they actually are thought cruel, by foolish friends, for teaching their children to drink only cold water. The elders should be very careful and exemplify their teachings in their lives, for they are closely watched, often when they least suspect that anyone takes notice of them.

Elder John D. Hooper, president of the Nottingham conference, referring to the missionary work, said that some defects had come under his observation which needed a remedy; but he did not know where to find one. He felt that there was a lack of spirituality. In many respects the branches were prosperous, but they were handicapped by the lack of elders. One branch had been closed. They were doing all they could to reach the saints in the conference, and they were urging them to keep the Word of Wisdom, to attend meetings, and to live as saints. They were trying to make the people generally understand the gospel; they were holding some street meetings in addition to the regular gatherings. The elders were devoted to their work, and were applying themselves to it with all their hearts.

After having emphasized the necessity of wisdom on the part of elders in their associations with the saints, Elder Hooper said they were trying to establish a system in their Sunday schools, and in visiting their members. They expect that the local brethren visit the saints, so that the other elders may have more time for investigators. They endeavored to keep the Sabbath as God instituted it; not with Old Testament rigidity, but in the spirit of it. The *Millennial Star*, he said, was pretty well circulated. There were one hundred and forty-five copies coming to the conference, and nearly all were taken. Elder Hooper concluded his

report by expressing a desire for a discussion of ways and means by which to foster spirituality to a higher degree among the people.

Elder Francis M. Skinner, president of the Norwich conference, reported that the elders are visiting the saints as frequently as possible, and that local brethren are assisting them. They have three Sabbath schools, two of which are conducted by local brethren, who are very enthusiastic in the work. Most of the saints, he said, are very sincere, while a few are less so. Some live in isolated districts, and seldom see an elder. The *Millennial Star*, he said, is appreciated by the saints. Tracting is done as extensively as circumstances will permit. Most of the saints pay their tithing, while some are indifferent in this respect. Elder Skinner said he was thankful that none of the saints had suffered any damage by aircraft, and he hoped that the protecting care of the Almighty would continue over His people.

Elder Peter M. Johnson, president of the Bristol conference, said the saints in that conference had been well tutored, and, as a consequence, much work was done by the local people. He had found that they could distribute more tracts, and hold more gospel conversations than the elders from Zion. The saints can go out and find opportunities to talk to many people about the gospel, who would not listen to a stranger. The speaker said he had found people either "hot," or "cold." As a rule, the saints are faithful; they pay their tithing, keep the Word of Wisdom, and observe the Sabbath. Some, however, are absolutely "cold," and are doing nothing. "We have tried to keep hot rocks to their feet for months, but we are doing this no longer." The local brethren, Elder Johnson said, are doing a good work. Elders Crittenden and Wilding are good, strong men, doing splendid work. Most of the saints read the *Millennial Star*, and the only objection to it is, that there is not more of it. The elders hand their *Stars* round to those who will read them. One sister makes it a point to *loan* them out, and thereby gets a chance to find out whether they are read, or not. We have only three elders in the conference now, but we are there to stay.

Elder James Laird, president of the Birmingham conference, reported that the elders are united and filled with love for the work. Sometimes he had found a contentious spirit in the conference, because there were some who did not care to listen to the elders. He had not had the opportunity to visit all the saints yet, but he was going round as fast as he could, and he had found some saints who had not been visited for a long time. Some of these had grown lukewarm, but were again becoming warm in their love of the gospel. The local brethren are doing their very best. There are eight branches, and we are trying to keep them

all open. Cottage meetings are held wherever an opportunity is offered. The *Millennial Star* is very much appreciated; those who read it rejoice in it. It is a great help to both saints and investigators.

Elder George A. Simkins, president of the Scottish conference, reported that part of the Lord's vineyard in a good condition. When he first came there, he said, he did not know where to find all the saints. There were seven hundred scattered all over the country. Now they are handicapped because of the restrictions the Government has found it necessary to place on traveling. "We cannot visit the saints as often as we would like to."

Speaking of the elders, Elder Simkins said they had not always been wise in their treatment of the members. He felt that President Joseph F. Smith had given to the mission a firmer support by calling older men into the field, for they have more experience, and are, therefore, better able to direct the work successfully. The speaker said there are now three elders in the field, and that he loves them. They are good men, and doing a good work. The key to success is for the Lord to have a ministry through whom He can speak to the people.

Referring to the work in Glasgow, Elder Simkins said they had grand meetings in that city. He said he did not know what he would do without the Relief Society. When they had anyone who was thought to be in need of help, they went to the sisters of the Relief Society and asked them to investigate, and when they made their report, they knew just exactly what was needed, and what to do. They are holding cottage meetings, and these are generally testimony meetings. Local Priesthood meetings are held every month. There is one brother who has been in the Church over sixty years, and he preaches on the streets with great power. Elder Simkins said he had great joy and satisfaction in tracting. In fact, if he did not do his regular amount of tracting, he felt "out of tune."

President Hyrum M. Smith remarked that the reports made had been very interesting. Many good ideas, he said, had been given us, and many questions had already been answered, while others would receive attention later on.

After singing and prayer, the meeting was adjourned till Friday, August 25th.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Correction.—In last week's *Star*, in the account of the "Farewell Social," where the conferences represented are enumerated, the name of Leeds conference, President Eben J. Robinson, was inadvertently omitted. President Robinson and Elder Joseph S. Nelson were in attendance from the Leeds conference.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1916.

EDITORIAL.

GREETING.

To the elders and saints of the European mission. With a grateful heart I thank and praise the Lord that I have been accounted worthy, and have received the appointment, to succeed President Hyrum M. Smith as president of the European mission and editor and publisher of the *Millennial Star*, and that I, with those who accompanied me, have been preserved in our travels to this land.

Our reception at Durham House, the headquarters of the European mission, by President and Sister Hyrum M. Smith, and others residing there, also by the conference presidents of the British mission, all of whom were on hand to greet us, was most cordial and affectionate.

The opportunity of meeting the conference presidents and local saints in the several meetings and socials, held during the past few days, and our brief, but happy, associations with President Smith and family before their departure for their home in Zion, are greatly appreciated, and are a splendid introduction to my mission.

Entering upon the duties of this important calling, I fully realize how inadequate I am for the responsibility; but I remember the words of the prophet Nephi, and take courage therefrom :

"I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them, that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them" (I. Nephi 3: 7).

In this, the most important labor in which man can be engaged, the saving of souls, I earnestly solicit your co-operation.

It is my sincere desire, that through the blessings of the Lord, and the example and efforts of the missionaries and saints, also through the *Star*, and other agencies which may be employed, we may be able to refute misrepresentations and slanderous falsehoods, allay prejudice, and sow the seeds of truth, that many honest souls may be brought into the fold of the Master, and be exalted in His kingdom.

In the discharge of a sacred duty devolving upon us as Latter-day Saints to preach the gospel, and to answer the promptings of love which should burn in our hearts for our fellowmen, let us put forth our ablest efforts to make known to the world the fact of the restoration of the gospel with all its ordinances, authority,

gifts and blessings, and the power thereof unto salvation, that men, if they will, may be brought to that condition of happiness and hope of life eternal which is so satisfying to our souls.

I admonish you, in the spirit of kindness and love, to heed the injunction of the Savior, which is as applicable to us to-day as it ever was to any people: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5: 16).

For President Hyrum M. Smith and family, and those of our saints who are accompanying them, let our prayers be earnest and constant, that they may be preserved from the perils of the sea and safely reach their home in the mountains.

I shall be glad indeed, to meet and become acquainted with you as early as circumstances will permit; also to encourage and assist you from time to time, to the extent of my ability.

May the favor of the Lord toward you be exceedingly manifest, and your hearts be full of appreciation of His mercies, and may you find pleasure in serving Him and keeping His commandments.

Affectionately, your brother in the gospel, and fellow-laborer in the vineyard,

GEORGE F. RICHARDS.

DISCOURSE BY APOSTLE ORSON PRATT.

DELIVERED IN THE TABERNACLE, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, OCTOBER 26TH, 1879.

(*Concluded from page 550*).

Perhaps you may ask why it is called "the perfection of beauty." Shall I read from the chapter I opened with? In the 11th verse of that chapter we read: "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundation with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones." Now any person that is acquainted with mineralogy, or with geology, and any person who has studied these things to any great extent, knows concerning these precious stones, how very precious they are esteemed, and how a small portion of these stones is frequently valued at more than its weight in gold, some of them one hundred times their weight in gold, and yet the Lord will bring, or create, or form, as the case may be, or tell His children how to form these precious stones in great abundance, sufficiently pure and crystallized, in order to complete the foundations, and also the temples and the public buildings of that great city, called the New Jerusalem. But before this shall commence, the Lord has addressed them as a people

afflicted: "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted." Just as the Latter-day Saints have been, now for upwards of forty years, driven from place to place, before we emigrated to this great mountain desert, persecuted by our enemies, our cities taken from us, our villages taken from us, our farms taken from us, our flocks and herds shot down; we were robbed of all these things, and yet without any redress from the government under which we live. We then came forth beyond these great rocky chains of mountains, hoping that in the distant desert, where no other people would have thought of locating themselves, we might live undisturbed. We have been greatly prospered in this desert. We have lived here long enough to fulfil a great many of the prophecies that are contained in this good Jewish Bible. But we have not yet got through with fulfilling prophecies. We are designed, as a people, to fulfill a great many prophecies.

We shall move, however, as I have already stated, down into that region of country. But you may say—that is, some of the weak Latter-day Saints may say—that it will cost so much; we will have to purchase all that country sufficiently extensive to give place to all this people. How are you going to obtain means enough to purchase a country large enough for all this people to dwell in? Well, now, the Lord has that in His own hands, don't you know it? Is it a difficult thing for the Lord to make His people rich when they are prepared for it, after days of tribulation, after passing through a great many afflictions and difficulties, tossed to and fro; would it be a difficult matter for the Lord to open up, whenever He pleases, means of unmeasurable riches, more than all the Latter-day Saints would know how to use? Hear what the Lord says: "For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting, nor destruction within thy borders." Who were the people here spoken of? They were people that should be clothed upon with this light that I have been speaking of, this glorious light; the presence of the Lord will be in their midst, and it will radiate over their temples, it will light their city by night and by day. "But are you sure," says one, "that such a thing will take place?" I have no time to read all the Lord says on the subject, but if you read the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah, you will find that the sun shall be no longer necessary by day, nor the moon by night, to give light to a certain people. Why? Because "the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down." Not like our sun which rises in the morning and exists above the horizon for a few hours, then descends, and darkness covers the earth. Not so with this light, the glorious divine light that will lighten up the heights of Zion. It will never go down, it will be a standing miracle by day and by night, from one week to another, month after month, year after year,

until the one thousand years shall have rolled away over the heads of the people that dwell on the earth.

But let us see what more is said. That same God that has spoken of these great riches, brass for gold, iron instead of silver, for wood brass, and for stones iron—I say that that same God has exhorted the latter-day people called Zion to "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." I do not mean something that never can be discerned. I mean that true light that emanates from the great fountain of light, the Messiah, the Redeemer; that true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world; that true light which is in all things, and giveth light to all things; that true light that lighteth up the understanding of the children of men, and quickeneth their memory; that true light that quickens the eyes of this mortal tabernacle, that we are able to discern objects round about us; that true light which is of God, will be rendered visible to the eyes of all the inhabitants of that city. And shall I limit it there? No. The light will shine so conspicuously from that city, extending to the very heavens, that it will, in reality, be like unto a city set upon a hill that cannot be hid, and it will have quite a tendency to strike terror to all the nations of the earth. Will all see it? No, some may be too far off, beyond the ocean, to behold that miraculous light, that will shine forth in this city; but I will tell you the effect it will have upon the kings, queens, rulers, congressmen, and judges of the earth—they will hear of it by telegraph; the news will be flashed over the civilized nations of the earth, but they will not believe it. They will say, "Let us cross the ocean, and let us see this thing that is reported to us by telegraph; let us see whether it is so or not." Well, when they get within a day or two's journey of the city, they will be alarmed. Some of these kings and nobles, when they see the light shining forth like the northern lights in the arctic regions, illuminating the whole face of the heavens—when they see this light shining forth long before they reach the city, fear will take hold of them there, says the psalmist, in the 48th Psalm. They will become weak, and their knees will smite together like the knees of Belshazzar. They will try to haste away from the glory of God, and from the power of God, and to get out of the country as soon as possible. Fear and terror will be upon them. It will have an effect upon many other kings and nobles, more pure in heart, more honest, that are willing to receive the truth; it will have a different effect upon them, so much so, that they will say with Isaiah, "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen from thee. And the gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." These are the different effects which it will have upon the rulers of various nations, some

believing, some trembling, some humbling themselves and willing to forsake their thrones and their kingdoms, and their empires, to come and dwell with the people of God, while others, more wicked, more corrupt, will not be able to endure it. This shining light will be seen for many miles distant, and the wicked will flee away; they will be fearful lest they be smitten by that power that illuminates the people of God, hence the terror of the Lord will be there. Terror will take hold of the wicked when Zion becomes as fair as the sun, and as clear as the moon, and her banners will be terrible to all nations.

One would naturally suppose, when we see the present hardness of heart that exists among our enemies, when we see our elders waylaid, young peaceable boys that are taking their first mission abroad to proclaim the gospel of the Son of God—when we see them shot down, and their murderers tried by a jury and acquitted, and then tried for riot, and acquitted of that—one would naturally suppose that a people so hard in their hearts, would not be converted to believe, even if they should see the power of God manifested. But do you suppose that among these people, where such things are carried on in the light of day, where murderers go free, and where judges say, "commit murder, commit riots, take the life of the innocent; we will free you"—do you suppose that there are no honest-hearted among the people that are allowed to do this? If you do, you are mistaken. There are many of the honest in heart deceived by the cunning craftiness of the children of men, by priestcraft which lies at the foundation of all the persecutions endured by the Latter-day Saints. Priests, afraid of their craft, afraid of this little one, afraid that the little one will become a thousand, and the small one a strong nation, say: "Let us down upon them, let us drive them from their homes, let us burn their houses, let us persecute them from city to city, let us fall upon their missionaries and put them to death." We would hardly suppose that there could be found an honest person among such a people; but there are. There are good-hearted people all through the States. In Missouri, where they first drove us? Yes, many. In Ohio, where we were also driven? Yes, many who are honest before God, and will receive the testimony of the gospel, and unto this Zion that I have been speaking of, such will gather together, to swell the numbers of the Latter-day Saints, and we will become a strong nation, and they cannot help themselves, and this is what makes them feel so bad. But, says one, we can help ourselves. We have got the Secretary of State, Mr. Evarts, and he, in connection with others of the Cabinet, have published a circular unto the nations of Germany, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, asking their help. "Will you not step forward," say they, "and put a stop to the emigration of the Latter-day Saints. We are afraid they are getting too strong. We are afraid there are too many of them in yonder hills.

O, Great Britain, help us! O, Germany, help us! Let your arm stretch forth and allow no more of these Latter-day Saints to gather to the mountains of Utah! O, keep them back. Shut up the ports of Liverpool, of Europe, and let no more emigrate to that land!" Do you think they can shut the ports of heaven? Do you think that yonder spirits that dwell in the presence of God the Father, will be kept back, and will not come here and take infant tabernacles to swell the borders of Zion? Think you, you can shut down the gates of heaven and control this matter? Stretch forth your arm and try to stay the arm of the Almighty, that He send no more spirits here to swell the borders of Zion! Would it not be well to pass laws to prevent these spirits coming, to prevent this heavenly emigration? Think you, you can stay the purposes of the Great Jehovah? No, these spirits will come, and our streets will be full of children, sons and daughters, and they will say, as they grow up: "The place is too strait; give place to me that I may dwell," and they will stretch forth the curtains of their habitations, they will lengthen their cords and strengthen their stakes in spite of all the powers of earth and hell combined. "A little one," says the Prophet Isaiah, "shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation." Daniel caught the same spirit. He saw a little one planted in the mountains. He saw a kingdom organized, an ecclesiastical government called the Kingdom of the God of Heaven. He saw it organized—not in the lower countries of the earth, but he saw it organized in a high and lofty region; in other words, as is recorded in the eighteenth chapter of his prophecies, he saw an ensign lifted up upon the mountains.

What is an ensign? "Why," says one, "according to our dictionary, and according to our opinion upon this subject, I should suppose an ensign, or standard, to be something unto which the people will gather." You have thought right. This ensign, says the Lord, shall be lifted up upon the mountain. What is an ensign? It is not only something unto which the people will gather, but it is something of divine appointment, something that the Lord organizes, something that will be a pattern to all peoples, nations and governments erected in the mountains, and He calls upon all the inhabitants of the earth to see it. In another place the Prophet Isaiah says: "And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." Can you hinder it? Can you oppose the almighty hand of Jehovah that He shall not accomplish His purposes? It cannot be done. You may afflict, you may pass laws, you may call upon distant nations to help you, you may shut down the emigration against the Latter-day Saints, you may drive them, you may burn their houses—you may do all this, but they will continue to live and to stretch forth in spite of all the powers beneath the heavens,

and become a great people under the Constitution of this great land. We never want to be freed from the Constitution of our country. It is built upon heavenly principles. It is established as firm as the rock of ages, and when those that abuse it shall moulder in corruption under the surface of the earth, the American Constitution will stand and no people can destroy it, because God raised it by our ancient fathers, and inspired them to frame that sacred instrument. The Constitution is one thing; corrupt politicians are another thing. One may be bright as the sun at noonday, the other as corrupt as hell itself; that is the difference. Because we have a good Constitution, that is no sign that the strong arm of the law, founded upon that Constitution, will protect the minority as well as the majority. The politician may suffer the majority to trample upon the rights guaranteed by that Constitution to the minority. They have done it before, and perchance they will continue to do it until they are wasted away. Then will be fulfilled another saying in this same chapter which I have read: "For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited." Now, there are a great many cities in the United States that will not be totally destroyed when the inhabitants are swept off the surface of the earth. Their houses, their desolate cities will still remain unoccupied until Zion in her glory and strength shall enlarge the place of her tents, and stretch forth the curtains of her habitations. That is the destiny of this nation, and the destiny of the Latter-day Saints. Amen.

PRAYER.

Is there anything more beautiful, more comforting, or anything that brings us nearer to God than prayer? To me there is nothing; and yet how often are prayers gone through as a matter of form, especially when everything goes smoothly and we feel contented and happy! It is when we are in trouble, and when we feel sad, that our hearts turn to our heavenly Father, and we ask Him to comfort us and, if possible, to take away our trouble. It is natural that we should turn to Him in times of trouble, and expect the consolation which He has promised to those who ask in faith; but by no means should this be the only time when we pray. We should thank Him for the blessings He bestows upon us each day, and for the peace of mind which we enjoy. We should pray always, and we may be sure that whatever we ask for, we shall receive—just as much as will be good for us. Whether we are rich or poor, no matter what we are, we should follow the example of our Savior, for we find that although He was the Son of God, and had so much power, yet He made all the desires of His

heart known to His Father, and when He received those things for which He prayed, He did not forget to offer His thanks.

We must not be selfish in our prayers. By this I mean that we must pray for others who are in trouble, just as earnestly as we pray for ourselves. Never has prayer been more necessary than it is at the present time, when fathers and brothers are being called from their homes, and those whom they love, to do their duty to their country. Especially should we pray for our soldiers, that they may be given strength to do their duty. And above all must we pray for the Church, that those in authority may have wisdom given to them to help them to guide and direct the affairs thereof in a way that will be pleasing to our Father in heaven.

But we must remember that the Lord helps those who try to help themselves, and when we ask Him for anything, we must not expect Him to do it for us while we loiter about. We must get to work and do as much for ourselves as we know how to do, and it is when we have done this, that we feel the benefit of prayer.

Blackburn. DOROTHY BLACKBURNE.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WAR.

August 1.—Air raiders sail over Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Essex, Kent, and Huntingdon. Sixty bombs were dropped. The U boat *Deutschland* leaves Baltimore.

August 4.—A force of 14,000 Turks attacks the British at Romani, eighteen miles east of the Suez Canal. The attack was repulsed.

August 5.—The Russians capture 5,500 prisoners south of Brody.

August 7.—Serbians, driving out Bulgarians, occupy Presba.

August 8.—The Italians have resumed the offensive on the Isonzo front. In the Monfalcone region they report having captured four thousand Austrians.

August 9.—Italian troops enter Gorizia. Twenty-one thousand prisoners taken. Hostile airships drop bombs on the British east coast. Six deaths, and seventeen persons injured, is the report of casualties.

August 12.—General von Bothmer retreats from the positions in Galicia, which he has held during the winter and summer. The Russian victory is characterized as "crushing." 84,720 prisoners captured in recent operations.

August 17.—Violent action reported along the entire Russian front, from the Baltic to Rumania. General Bezobrazoff reports the capture of 7,500 prisoners and many guns. Total losses of the Austrians between June 4th and August 12th, are said to be: 7,955 officers, 358,158 men, 451 guns, 1,396 machine-guns, 397 bomb and mine throwers, 292 caissons, and 14,000 shells. Calculating the number of prisoners to be a third, or a fourth, of the general losses, it is estimated that Austria has lost one million men.

August 19.—The German High Seas Fleet suddenly appears in the North Sea, but returns to its base after having sunk two British light cruisers the *Falmouth* and the *Nottingham*. One German submarine sunk and one damaged.

August 21.—The Bulgarians make an attack on the Serbians on the entire front, from Florina to Demir Hissar, threatening the Greek port of Kavala.

August 25.—Bulgarians enter Kavala, the Greeks retiring without resistance.

August 27.—Rumania declares war on Austria-Hungary.

August 28.—Italy declares war on Germany.

August 29.—Germany declares war on Rumania.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Baptism.—A baptismal service was held at the Grand Spa Hotel Baths, Bristol (Bristol conference), August 28th, 1916, when one soul was added to the fold of Christ. Elder Chauncey H. Crittenden officiated.

Departure.—Elder Hyrum M. Smith, retiring president of the European mission, sailed from Liverpool, September 1st, 1916, on the s.s. *Grampian*. He was accompanied by his family, by Elder Joseph F. Worthen, who had been laboring as a missionary in the Leeds conference, and by a party of emigrating saints.

Appointment.—Elder George F. Richards, Jr., son of President George F. Richards of the European mission, has been assigned to labor in the Liverpool office, being appointed to the position of transportation agent. He will have charge of matters relating to emigration, and to the arrival of missionaries from Zion.

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